

# Onizuka ORBITER

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## Onizuka to hold blood/bone marrow drive

Onizuka Air Force Station will hold a combined Blood and Bone Marrow Drive Feb. 3 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Space Place.

The American Red Cross will be here to accept blood donations and to register people to participate in the National Bone Marrow Donor Registry. Eligible donors can participate in one or both drives.

The entire process takes approximately one hour, including registration, pre-screening, blood donation and refreshments afterwards.

Sign up to donate the gift of life. Call Public Affairs at ext. 4035.



## Need for blood donations grows

by Master Sgt. Michael Briggs  
Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- With a smaller pool of eligible military donors and a recently decreased stock of frozen blood, the Air Force assistant vice chief of staff is calling on service-members and their families to donate blood.

In a recent memo to the field, Lt. Gen. Joseph Wehrle asked airmen worldwide to roll up their sleeves and give the gift of life.

"Blood safety and availability are inseparable requirements for ensuring optimal care of our active-duty troops, retirees, military spouses and children," he said. "Unfortunately, current federal regulations barring donations from (people) who have served time in Europe have resulted in a 5 percent drop in eligible donors on Air Force bases."

Besides fewer donors, the frozen blood supply took a hit recently when the Armed Services Blood Program Office asked the military to

withdraw frozen blood supplies donated during last summer's West Nile virus epidemic to avoid transmitting the potentially fatal disease to recipients.

Those factors, combined with a historical trend of fewer blood donations in the winter months, would make the need for blood more urgent in any year.

That need is even more urgent today, taking into consideration current world events including a possible war with Iraq.

"At this time, with American forces actively fighting the war on terrorism and with hundreds of thousands of military (people) deployed in support of expeditionary operations throughout the world, I want to personally encourage everyone who can give blood to do so," Wehrle said.

Military and civilian blood collection officials said donors with Type AB blood are especially needed, because AB is the universal blood plasma type.

"Blood has a shelf life of only 42 days, which means it constantly needs to be replenished," said Jim MacPherson, chief executive officer of America's Blood Centers. "Donors can give blood every 56 days, or six times a year."

Fewer than 5 percent of healthy Americans eligible to donate blood actually donate each year, according to information from the American Association of Blood Banks. To be eligible to donate blood, a person must be in good health and usually must be at least 17 years old. Minimum weight requirements may vary among facilities, but generally, donors must weigh at least 110 pounds. Most blood banks have no upper age limit. All donors must pass the physical and health history examinations given before donation.

"This selfless act helps us take care of our own, the hallmark of our military tradition," Wehrle said. *(Courtesy of Air Education and Training Command News Service. Army Spc. Chuck Wagner contributed to this story.)*

# SECAF adds 'vector' to communications arsenal

by Master Sgt. Scott Elliott  
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON -- "Surfers" of Air Force Link, the Air Force's official Web site, found a new link Jan. 14 providing information straight from the Air Force's senior leader.

Called "The Secretary's Vector," the location provides Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche with an immediate and direct line of communication with airmen, said William C. Bodie, director of Air Force communications at the Pentagon.

"Dr. Roche is an activist secretary of the Air Force," he said. "He shares with (Air Force Chief of Staff) Gen. John P. Jumper a commitment to communicating with our people."

The Secretary's Vector is designed to help introduce and reinforce key elements of his vision and goes hand in hand with Jumper's "Chief's Sight Picture," Bodie said.

The inaugural vector announces the first change to the Air Force's core competencies since they were introduced in 1996. According to Bodie, this was not an accident.

"The secretary is continuously examining first principle questions and concepts," he said. "He believes this vector should focus on 'core' elements of the Air Force

and his vision. As such, this subject fit like a glove."

While the vector will be published as needed, rather than on a regularly scheduled basis, Bodie said its Internet format will dovetail perfectly into the secretary's overall communication plan.

"In this digital age of high technology and information revolutions, Secretary Roche places a great emphasis on portfolios -- a rich collection of elements that together create a complementary whole," he said.

The Secretary's Vector will underscore critical and broad themes about Air Force people, technologies and management concepts. Bodie said the vector will also provide a framework for understanding many other products, such as base newspapers, Air Force Radio and Television News, the Air Force Policy Letter Digest and Commander's Call Topics.

"Like General Jumper, Dr. Roche is a natural communicator with a passion for clear and concise language," Bodie said. "He believes that our internal audience -- officers and enlisted, civilian employees, Reserve and Guard members -- are as important as any of our external audiences. With such a full agenda, he knows that you can never reinforce key messages too much."

## Taxpayers can file returns online for free

ST. LOUIS (AFPN) -- The Treasury Department, Office of Management and Budget and the Internal Revenue Service in Washington launched a new Web site Jan. 17 featuring private-sector partners who will allow eligible taxpayers to prepare and file their taxes online for free. A substantial number of citizens will be able to use this service.

President Bush proposed free online tax filing last February as one of his e-government initiatives. Less than one year later, millions of Americans will benefit from free online tax filing services if they are eligible. Treasury, OMB and IRS officials have made this possible through a public-private partnership with some tax software companies known as the Free File Alliance.

According to information found on the IRS Web site, Free File is an easier, faster and secure way for citizens to file taxes and will also allow Americans to get refunds in half the time, said officials.

"No one likes paying taxes," said

Kenneth W. Dam, acting treasury secretary. "It's too confusing and time consuming. The launch of this new Web site is great news for millions of Americans. Free File makes it easy. Now they can save time (and) money and get their refunds in half the time by filing their taxes online for free."

Each FFA member company sets taxpayer eligibility requirements for its own program. These requirements will differ from company to company.

Generally, eligibility will be based on factors such as age, adjusted gross income, state residency, military status or eligibility to file a Form 1040EZ or for the Earned Income Tax Credit. Taxpayers can review the list of companies, found on the Free File section of the IRS Web site, where eligibility requirements are shown company by company.

The primary candidates for Free File are those taxpayers who prepare their own taxes and still file paper returns. Last year the IRS received nearly 85 million paper returns, while

nearly 47 million e-filed returns.

"Free File puts e-file within reach of more taxpayers than ever," said acting IRS Commissioner Robert Wenzel. "They'll soon discover what the 47 million taxpayers who e-filed last year already know: E-file is quicker, e-file is more accurate, e-file is the best way to confirm the IRS received your return, and it's the fastest route to a refund."

E-government is an integral part of the president's management agenda to make it easier for citizens and businesses to interact with the government, save taxpayer dollars and streamline citizen-to-government transactions. A copy of the president's e-government strategy, which includes information on each of the e-government initiatives, is available on the OMB Web site at [www.whitehouse.gov/omb](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb). A Free File initiative fact sheet, which includes list of the FFA members and frequently asked questions, can be found on the IRS Web site at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

## Space Command opens Web site for easy access to base services

by Stacey Knott  
Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. – Air Force Space Command members, their families and retirees now have easy public access for all their family support needs.

The new AFSPC command Web site, "People Helping People-Integrated Delivery System," was launched last May, but until recently only members with restricted ".mil" site access were able to view it. Now, one-stop shopping for base community information and resources is available for everyone.

"We found that military spouses and retirees needed increased access to base support information, but they couldn't get to it from the ".mil" site. So we bought a ".com" site in order to meet their needs," said Betty Schuster, People Helping People-Integrated Delivery System executive director.

The "People Helping People" site at [www.php-ids.com/](http://www.php-ids.com/) allows people to check out a variety of service agencies: family support center, chapel services, health and wellness center, family advocacy program, life skills support center, military equal opportunity, family member support flight, drug demand reduction and legal.

The site also offers easy registration for classes, newsletter subscription and a calendar of events.

The PHP-IDS working group at AFSPC developed the site to ease the difficulty and frustration associated with trying to find this type of support information and to help eliminate duplication, overlap and gaps in the existing services.

## Surgery increases vision, readiness

A program designed to eliminate the need for contact lenses and glasses has improved Air Force mission readiness in just over a year. The Air Force Warfighter Photo-refractive Keratectomy Program went active at the end of 2001 and provides surgery to all Air Force service-members who qualify – surgery that in most cases eliminates the need for glasses or contact lenses.

While the surgery cannot completely free everybody from glasses or contacts, it can reduce nearly everyone's dependence on them. According to the Air Force Surgeon General's office, the purpose for the program is to increase the readiness of warfighters by eliminating the need for glasses or contact lenses. Corrective lenses can be a hindrance in the field or in the cockpit.

For more information, see the Air Force Print News story at [www.af.mil/news/Jan2003/11303645.shtml](http://www.af.mil/news/Jan2003/11303645.shtml).

## Safety tips for driving in snow

Driving in hazardous road conditions can lead to hot tempers and unforeseen dangers. To help make driving safer when dealing with snow, sleet and ice, incorporate these recommendations every time you buckle up.

**Weather.** Cold temperatures affect road and driving conditions and can pose serious problems. Make sure to check forecasts on the radio, TV, cable weather channel and in the daily papers.

**Car.** Prepare your car for winter. Start with a checkup that includes: checking the ignition, brakes, wiring, hoses and fan belts; changing and adjusting the spark plugs; checking air, fuel and emission filters and the PCV valve; inspecting the distributor; checking the battery; checking tire pressure, sidewall wear and tread depth; and checking antifreeze level and the freeze line.

Have your car tuned up to ensure better gas mileage, quicker starts and faster response on pick-up and passing power.

**Equipment.** Emergency situations can arise at any time, so be prepared. Keep the following items in your trunk: an inflated spare tire, wheel wrench, tripod-type jack, shovel, jumper cables, tow and tire chains, a bag of salt or cat litter, and a tool kit.

**Supplies.** Always keep a "survival kit" in the car, and replenish supplies after use. Essential supplies include a working flashlight and extra batteries, reflective triangles and brightly colored cloth, flares, compass, first aid kit, exterior windshield cleaner, ice scraper, wooden stick matches in a waterproof container, and non-perishable, high-energy foods such as canned nuts, dried fruits and hard candy.

In addition, if driving long distances under cold, snowy or icy conditions, carry supplies to keep you warm, such as woolen mittens, socks, caps and blankets.

**If you become stranded,** do not leave your car unless you know exactly where you are, how far it is to help, and you are certain you will improve your situation. To attract attention, light two flares and place one at each end of the car a safe distance away. Hang a brightly colored cloth from your antenna.

If you are sure the car's exhaust pipe is not blocked, run the engine and heater for about 10 minutes every hour or so depending upon the amount of gas in the tank. Use the woolen items to protect from frostbite and hypothermia. Keep at least one window open slightly -- snow and ice can seal a car shut.



## FEGLI has new premiums, other changes

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- Some Air Force civilian employees and retirees will see a change in the cost of their Federal Employees Group Life Insurance premiums. They may find themselves placed into a new age group.

A recent review of the FEGLI premiums by Office of Personnel Management officials resulted in the changes that became effective Jan. 1.

Because of today's generally lower mortality rates, OPM officials decided to reduce the premium for basic insurance and several of the Option B age bands and add new age bands for Options B and C, said officials at the Air Force Personnel Center here. There are no changes to Option A premiums or to the existing Option C age bands.

"The new rates were actually applied the first pay period in January, and any changes should reflect on the employee's Jan. 31 leave and earnings statement," said Janet Thomas of the center's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

More information and cost charts can be found at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pubaffairs/release/2003/01/FEGLI.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/pubaffairs/release/2003/01/FEGLI.htm). (Courtesy of AFPC News Service)

## Identity theft prevention measures

MALMSTROM AIR FORCE BASE, Mont. - On Dec. 23 TriWest, a TRICARE contractor covering beneficiaries in Montana and the Central and Western United States, reported that computer equipment containing personal information about military servicemembers, their families and retirees was stolen from its Phoenix offices.

This incident emphasizes the critical need to minimize the risk of identity theft. The following tips can help you reduce personal risk:

- Check your credit report regularly with one of the three major credit bureaus: Equifax, 800-685-1111; Experian, 800-682-7654; or Trans Union, 800-916-8800.

- Order your Social Security Earnings and Benefits Statement at least once a year to ensure your Social Security number is not being used fraudulently. The number to order is 800-772-1213.

- Closely monitor bank statements, credit card statements, cellular phone bills and other bills for unauthorized charges and other unauthorized access to your accounts.

- Follow up with creditors if your bills do not arrive on time. A missing credit card bill could mean that your identity, including your account information, has been stolen.

If you receive a letter from TriWest stating that your personal information has been stolen, call the three credit bureaus to inquire about the types of fraud alerts that can be placed on your credit file as a precaution.

If, after taking the preventive steps listed above, you believe that you have become a victim of identity theft, take the following steps immediately:

- Contact the three credit bureaus listed above and report the identity theft, in addition to the fraud alerts.

- Contact immediately all creditors with whom your name has been used fraudulently -- by phone and in writing. Close old accounts and obtain new account numbers, replacement cards, etc.

- Report the identity theft to local police and to the police departments where the crime occurred. Obtain all copies of the police reports. You will need these reports to verify the crimes with creditors.

- Notify the post office if you suspect an unauthorized change of address or suspect that your mail has been used to commit fraud.

- File a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission at 877-438-4338.

- If you suspect fraudulent use of your Social Security number, report it to the Social Security Administration at 800-269-0271. (Courtesy of 341st Space Wing Legal Office)

## Job e-library saves research time

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) -- People seeking civilian job information and supervisors considering creating a position or reorganizing work can save hours of research time by using a recently expanded electronic library of civilian job information.

More than 700 civilian positions are covered by the Standard Core Personnel Document Library Web site. Each listing contains a position description, performance

plan and recruitment criteria.

Since 1996 more than 28,000 positions have been filled using documents from the library, said Chrissy Ayers, manager of the document library at the Air Force Personnel Center here.

Previously, supervisors faced hours of research to effectively write or revise a civilian position description, she said.

"Now people can check the SCPD library for existing established position descriptions before developing one on their own," said Ayers. "If a listed

position fits the local work situation and is agreed upon with the servicing classification specialist, it can then be tailored for a specific position."

The library is broken down by pay plan and allows people to search by job family.

"Our goal is to list as many positions on the SCPD library as possible," said Ayers. "This consolidated resource of information could save people vast amounts of time."



# New short-term enlistments coming

by Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- A new military short-term enlistment program will begin Oct. 1 aimed at expanding the opportunities for all Americans to serve the country.

Congress authorized the National Call to Service enlistment option as part of the fiscal 2003 National Defense Authorization Act.

The program allows the military services a new option to reach a group of young Americans who otherwise might not serve because of the length of traditional enlistment options, said Bob Clark, assistant director in the Department of Defense's accession policy directorate.

The program will work like this: A recruit enlists for the option and incurs a 15-month active-duty service obligation following completion of initial-entry training, for a total active-duty commitment of about 19 months.

Following successful completion of active duty, servicemembers may re-enlist for further active duty or transfer to the selected reserve for a 24-month obligation.

Once this is completed, servicemembers may stay in the selected reserve or transfer to individual ready reserve for the remainder of an eight-year commitment.

"The unique piece of this legislation is that while in the individual ready reserve, these young people will be given the opportunity to move into one of the other national service programs, such as AmeriCorps or the Peace Corps, and time in those will count toward their eight-year obligation," Clark said.

While the Army and Navy already have a limited two-year enlistment program, this is the first time the Air Force and Marine Corps will offer the option.

Clark said that the option would be limited to high-quality recruits -- those with a high school diploma and scores in the top half of aptitude tests. Officials hope this will make

the military more attractive to college-bound youth who might volunteer to take a short period out between high school and college but would not take off that three- or four-year period.

He said he feels the option may also attract college graduates interested in serving their country before attending graduate school. But perhaps the largest potential pool for the option is with community college graduates who might serve the country for a short time and use available incentives to enter a four-year school, Clark said.

There are four incentives under the option. The first is a \$5,000 bonus payable upon completion of active duty service.

The second is a loan-repayment option also paid at the end of the active-duty portion. The legislation allows for repayment of up to \$18,000 of qualifying student loans.

The final two incentives are tied to, but not part of, the Montgomery G.I. Bill. One gives 12 months of a full Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend -- currently about \$900 a month.

"This should attract college graduates looking to go to grad school," Clark said.

The other incentive offers 36 monthly payments at one-half of the current Montgomery G.I. Bill stipend.

"We look at this as being an incentive to both high school graduates or maybe college students who are financially strapped who may need to sit out for a period, serve the country, learn, see the world and then go to school," he said.

The services will set the enlistment criteria. Military specialties that involve long-term training will not be offered. Basic medical specialties, some engineer skills, and personnel, administration and combat specialties will be part of the mix. The first people who opt for this program will



## NEWS NOTES

### Savings Bond holding period increases

Department of Treasury officials have announced that the minimum holding period for Series EE and I bonds increases from six to 12 months beginning Feb. 1.

This means people who purchase EE or I bonds on or after Feb. 1 must wait one year before they may redeem those bonds.

People who purchase bonds will receive a notification of this new policy with their bonds until the current preprinted bond stock reflects the change.

More information is available at [www.savingsbonds.gov](http://www.savingsbonds.gov).

### Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement volunteers are needed now! Junior Achievement introduces business, economic and personal success skills to students in kindergarten through high school. Become a JA volunteer and share valuable knowledge. It only takes enthusiasm, life experience and a willingness to teach. Junior Achievement provides the training, curriculum and a classroom full of students. If interested contact Capt. Dave Learned at 548-1220.

### Airman's 'the book' available online

Demographics, statistics and a wide range of information about the Air Force highlight the January 2003 issue of Airman magazine, available now on Air Force Link at [www.af.mil](http://www.af.mil). "Centennial of Flight" is the theme for the January issue, traditionally called "The Book." It includes organization of the aerospace forces, facts, figures and aerospace weapons. The issue also includes a listing of Air Force tail markings, messages from key leaders and more.



**AMERICA'S AIR FORCE**  
"No One Comes Close"

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# Scholarships available to military dependents, minority students

## Association offers scholarships to children

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. (AFPN) -- The Military Officers Association of America will give \$1,000 college scholarships at random to sons and daughters of military people, including reservists. Deadline to complete the online application is March 1.

Formerly known as The Retired Officers Association, MOAA will honor 100 college-bound or current undergraduate students with individual \$1,000 scholarship grants for the 2003 to 2004 school year. The association's scholarship program is part of an ongoing effort to assist young people from military families.

Of the few eligibility requirements, applicants must be younger than 24 and provide basic information such as their SAT score and college. If an applicant served in the military before attending college, the maximum age for eligibility increases by the number of service years, up to five years.

Membership in MOAA is not mandatory, and there is no grade point average requirement.

Semifinalists will be notified by e-mail in March and may be asked to provide more detailed information. The scholarships will be given by late August.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.moaa.org/Education/2003](http://www.moaa.org/Education/2003) (Courtesy of Air Force Reserve Command News Service)

## Scholarships for minority students in the sciences

The American Chemical Society, the world's largest scientific society, is seeking applications from underrepresented minority students for its scholars program. The application deadline is Feb. 15.

The ACS Scholars Program provides financial support to academically accomplished African American, Hispanic and Native American students in their pursuit of undergraduate studies in chemistry, chemical engineering, biochemistry, environmental science and related disciplines in two- and four-year college and university programs.

Up to 100 scholarships will be awarded to minority students seeking a career in chemistry. Freshmen can receive up to \$2,500 per academic year. Sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible for up to \$3,000 per academic year.

According to an ACS report, relatively few minorities major in science-related disciplines at the college level. In 2000, for example, those of Hispanic heritage -- 12.5 percent of the U.S. population -- represented 2.6 percent of the chemistry work force; African Americans -- almost 12 percent of the population -- made up less than 2 percent of the chemical work force; and Native Americans -- 1 percent of the population -- made up less than 1 percent of the chemical work force.

For more details on the ACS Scholars Program, including an online application form, please visit [www.acs.org/scholars](http://www.acs.org/scholars) or call 800-227-5558, ext. 6250.

**CLASSIFIED**  
ADVERTISING

The Onizuka Orbiter's free classified section is for members of the Onizuka/Moffett communities. To run an ad, fax it to: (408) 752-6082 or e-mail to [valerie.joseph@onizuka.af.mil](mailto:valerie.joseph@onizuka.af.mil).

If you want your ad to run longer, please resubmit or contact Public Affairs at (408) 752-4035.

## Enlist, from Page 5

go into the delayed-entry program beginning Oct. 1.

Clark was adamant that service-members in this program would not be "second-class citizens." He said although they will serve shorter periods of time, they would be treated the same way as those with longer-term enlistments.

Traditional enlistment terms are three, four, five and six years, he said.

The program will start with a small number of inductees, but there is no set number. As the program begins, DOD will work with national service organizations to ensure recruits under this program understand all their options.

Clarks said the department is coming off its most successful recruiting year ever.

"The department does not need this program to fill the ranks," he said. "But we are excited about offering the chance to serve the country to young men and women who ordinarily might not."

WHEN NOT IN USE  
SNAP OFF THE JUICE  
SAVE ENERGY

## Onizuka Orbiter

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